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**CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM — CATEGORY III
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/INQUIRY SUBMITTAL**

I. Project Title: EAST ANTIOCH CREEK WETLAND RESTORATION (Phase II)

Applicant: Mt. Diablo Audubon Society (MDAS)
c/o Nancy Wenninger, Chair
Wetlands Project Steering Committee
1091 Walker Avenue
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Telephone: (510) 313-2227
Facsimile: (510) 313-2333

- II. Project Description:** Contra Costa County Flood Control District (CCCFCD) has recently acquired more than 20 acres of marshland along East Antioch Creek near its outfall at the San Joaquin River in the City of Antioch. The focus of this proposal is a 7.5 acre portion of that acquisition which has over time been degraded by loss of tidal flow, litter and dumping. CCCFCD is planning to clean up the site and create additional wetlands by excavating and regrading and enlarging an existing culvert to facilitate increased tidal action. This design will allow the marsh to revert to a healthy saline emergent wetland while performing a flood control function for the upstream watershed. In partnership with CCCFCD, MDAS proposes to assist in the restoration and protection of this sensitive habitat through the actions listed below.

Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives:

- (A) Reestablish native plant species in the saline emergent wetland, control competitive weedy plants and improve the quality of adjacent upland habitat to provide refuge for wildlife during high tides.
- (B) Protect the restored marsh from degradation from human use by developing an onsite public education program to foster better understanding of wetland habitat and its importance in our environment.
- (C) Develop a barrier and/or trapping plan to control non-native wildlife such as feral cats and red foxes.
- (D) Assist in the development and implementation of alternative land management practices to promote habitat recovery and diversity.

III. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

TASK	SCHEDULE	ESTIMATED COST
Planning: Perform feasibility analysis (soil sampling, site assessment, species survey, hydrology and typography); prepare conceptual design and monitoring plan; develop community outreach strategy.	Jan. '98	\$25,000
Design: Develop site revegetation plan for wetlands and uplands and strategy for controlling non-native wildlife and plant species; complete plan for constructing educational facilities; secure necessary permits.	July '98	\$25,000

Construction: Build educational facilities, wildlife-viewing and water-sampling platforms, and trails; install replacement vegetation, control weeds and non-native wildlife.	June '99	\$75,000
Monitoring: Implement water-quality monitoring plan and plant and animal species monitoring plan.	Oct. '99 --	\$25,000

- IV. Justification for Project and Funding by CalFed:** The subject site contains tidal saline emergent wetlands, a priority aquatic habitat for species of concern identified by the CalFed Bay-Delta Program. This project provides an excellent opportunity for a public agency and a high-profile non-profit organization to work together to restore and protect high-quality wetland habitat in an urban area. If the project is funded, MDAS can "piggyback" on CCCFCD's public works project to enhance upland habitat critical to waterfowl and other species and coordinate a public education and awareness program directly tied to the site.
- V. Third Party Impacts:** No change in existing land use is involved in the project; however, a potential impact to the City of Antioch is the additional cost of providing maintenance service to site once the project has been completed.
- VI. Applicant Qualifications:** MDAS, a local chapter of the National Audubon Society, has a membership numbering more than 1,300, most of whom are residents of Contra Costa County with a strong interest in conservation. The organization's board of directors is committed to this project as a tangible contribution to the welfare of wildlife in our community. As part of our process, MDAS will consult with experts in the field of wetland restoration to develop a comprehensive scope of work and to assist with the planning and implementation of the project.
- VII. Monitoring and Data Evaluation:** In conjunction with the planning phase, MDAS will develop plan for monitoring the success of the habitat restoration, to include a pre-project and periodic post-project census to confirm and monitor the presence of any special-status or target species, as well as other native species. We also foresee implementing an ongoing program of water quality testing.
- VIII. Local Support:** The City of Antioch has given its preliminary approval of the MDAS proposal, and is working with MDAS on details of site development and the sponsorship of maintenance activities. Many neighbors have already voiced their support of MDAS' efforts to protect and enhance this site. In April, 1997, MDAS sponsored a cleanup in which thirty people from the community and CCCFCD participated. MDAS will explore other ways to involve the community as stakeholders in the marsh.

Coordination with Other Programs: As discussed above, this proposal is directly linked with CCCFCD's efforts to enhance the marsh. All stages of MDAS' proposed project will be coordinated with and approved by CCCFCD as property owner and lead agency. This project is congruent with the East Antioch Creek Watershed Area Drainage Improvement Plan and the City of Antioch's Creek Development Policy, aimed at "preserving, restoring and recreating the natural riparian landscape."

Compatibility with CalFed Objectives: This project is consistent with CalFed's goals to restore ecosystem health in a priority habitat within the geographic scope of the ERPP.